

EIR Request (received 28 April 2021) - Reference: DFI/2021-0164

I request the following information.

The number of vehicle damage claims made within the last 5 years due to "debris" (pothole related) and the number that was settled.

Response (issued 05 May 2021)

Thank you for your email dated 28th April 2021 and subsequent clarification of 5th May 2021, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to the number of vehicle damage pothole claims received and settled for the last 5 years.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as opposed to the FOI Act 2000.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

Table 1 details the total number of public liability vehicle damage claims received where the cause of accident was identified as a pothole for each of the last five full financial years.

Table 1

Financial Year	Claims received
2016-2017	1,025
2017-2018	3,093
2018-2019	2,456
2019-2020	1,663
2020-2021	2,003

Table 2 details the total number of public liability vehicle damage claims that resulted in compensation being paid, where the cause of accident was identified as a pothole and where the compensation was paid in each of the last five full financial years.

Please note that claims received in any given financial year are not always concluded in the same financial year. This is because, inter alia, claims which are rejected may result in legal proceedings being issued or claims received late in the year may not have the outcome decided until the following year. It is important that this distinction is made clear, as it would

be incorrect to infer that claims concluded in any year relate to claims received that year. The same applies to the number of compensation payments figures below.

Table 2

Financial Year	Compensation paid
2016-2017	1,315
2017-2018	670
2018-2019	3,230
2019-2020	1,182
2020-2021	1,308

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